



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

TESTIMONY OF
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CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Peter Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents over 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership consists of firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses employing fewer than 50 people.

CBIA opposes SB 560 *AN ACT EXTENDING THE PREVAILING WAGE ON CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS RECEIVING PUBLIC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*

Connecticut's ability to create jobs depends in part on an effective and efficient system of economic development assistance. This bill would add both cost and red tape to publicly financed construction projects funded in part by DECD, CDA or CII that exceed \$1 million.

Effectively the bill adds the burden and reporting of a prevailing wage project (estimated to be about 21% more than non-prevailing wage by CCM) to dozens of economic development projects that require new or supplemental construction for business development. Presently many projects receiving government assistance do use union contractors for some or all of the work, but this compels contractors to use union scale.

Connecticut needs to do the best it can to fast track any project funded by DECD, CDA or CII to create economic opportunity in the state. This bill unnecessarily complicates these agencies's work and in many instances might add costs and or delays.

We ask the committee to reject this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.